

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 00809 271738Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 271545Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2354

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 809

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, GR, EAID, EFIN

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PL 480 ASSISTANCE TO GREECE

FROM AMBASSADOR FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

REF: A) ATHENS 3459, MAY 8, 1975

B) ATHENS 509

FOLLOWING VISITS HERE OF CODEL MORGAN AND AID
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR NEILL, GOG IS AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES CURRENTLY BEING ENCOUNTERED BY THE ADMINISTRATIONS PROPOSED \$225 MILLION ECONOMIC/MILITARY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE FOR GREECE IN THE CONTEXT OF FOREIGN AID LEGISLATION GENERALLY. IN THE EVENT THAT THIS PACKAGE IS CUT SUBSTANTIALLY, OR IF, BECAUSE OF RECOURSE TO CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS AUTHORITY, NO NEW ASSISTANCE TO GREECE CAN BE AUTHORIZED, I BELIEVE THAT THE MOMENTUM OF US TANGIBLE SUPPORT FOR RESTORED DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN GREECE WOULD BE IMPAIRED, UNLESS WE CAN COME UP WITH ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT GESTURE OF HELP. LAST YEAR (CF. REF A), GREECE REQUESTED COMMODITY FINANCING AS PART OF AN OVERALL AID PACKAGE, BUT US CROP CONDITIONS DID NOT PERMIT THIS. I UNDERSTAND THAT US FOOD AVAILABILITIES HAVE CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE THEN. THE RECENT NEWS THAT GREECE INTENDS TO REQUEST
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APPROXIMATELY \$43 MILLION IN CCC CREDITS FOR CORN

AND BARLEY TO MEET REQUIREMENTS THROUGH JULY 1, 1976 (REF B), SUGGESTS THAT THERE IS POTENTIAL FOR IMPORTANT US FINANCING IN THIS AREA, ESPECIALLY IF THE PROPOSED \$50 MILLION ASSISTANCE GRANT AND THE \$65 MILLION LONG-TERM SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE LOAN ARE CUT THIS FISCAL YEAR. I RECOMMEND THAT WE SERIOUSLY CONSIDER--IN LIEU OF CCC--A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF PL 480 TITLE IV CREDITS ON COMPARABLE CONCESSIONAL TERMS, NOT ONLY IN THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, BUT ALSO FOR FY 1977. THIS WOULD GO FAR TOWARD SOFTENING THE INEVITABLE GOG DISAPPOINTMENT IF THE US PROVED UNABLE TO DELIVER ON THE ECONOMIC SUPPORT REQUESTED BY THEM TWELVE MONTHS AGO.
KUBISCH

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